	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Notice of Allowability	10/669,893	SCHWARZE ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Nicholas D. Rosen	3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to *the amendment and remarks of November 20, 2007*.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are *1-10,13-21 and 24-33*.

3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a) ☐ All   b) ☐ Some*   c) ☐ None   of the:

        1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

        2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

        3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * Certified copies not received: _____ .

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

    (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

        1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

    (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of

    Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 11/20/2007

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application

6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ .

7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____.

Nicholas D. Rosen
NICHOLAS D. ROSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

Claims 1-35 are allowed.

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes

and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided

by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be

submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview

with attorney J. Richard Soderberg on December 17, 2007.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 1 is hereby amended to read:

1.   A method comprising:

receiving a request for at least one catalog item from a requestor;

formatting the request according to a catalog interface protocol;

determining a plurality of catalog servers available to the request, said

determining comprising determination by an application server of available catalog

servers from proxy settings of a browser used by the requestor;

sending the formatted request to a plurality of catalog servers;

receiving a response from each of the plurality of catalog servers in a format

conforming to the catalog interface protocol, each of the responses including results

describing at least one catalog item identified in response to the request;

parsing the responses to obtain the results; and

sending the results from the plurality of catalog servers to the requestor.

Claims 11 and 12 are hereby canceled.

Claim 13 is hereby amended to read:

13.   An article including a machine-readable medium including machine-executable instructions operative to cause a machine to perform the steps of:

receiving a request for at least one catalog item from a requestor;

formatting the request according to a catalog interface protocol;

determining a plurality of catalog servers available to the request, said determining comprising determination by an application server of available catalog servers from proxy settings of a browser used by the requestor;

sending the formatted request to a plurality of catalog servers;

receiving a response from each of the plurality of catalog servers in a format conforming to the catalog interface protocol, each of the responses including results describing at least one catalog item identified in response to the request;

parsing the responses to obtain the results; and

sending the results from the plurality of catalog servers to the requestor.

Claims 22 and 23 are hereby canceled.

Claim 24 is hereby amended to read:

24.   A system comprising:

a client operative to enable a user to compose and send a request for at least one catalog item; and

a catalog search agent operative to:

receive the request from the requestor,

format the request according to a catalog interface protocol,

determine a plurality of catalog servers available to the request, said determining comprising determination by an application server of available catalog servers from proxy settings of a browser used by the requestor,

receive a response from each of the plurality of catalog servers in a format conforming to the catalog interface protocol, each of the responses including results describing at least one catalog item identified in response to the request,

parse the responses to obtain the results, and

send the results from the plurality of catalog servers to the requestor.

Claims 34 and 35 are hereby canceled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-10 are allowed.

Claims 13-21 are allowed.

Claims 24-33 are allowed.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The closes

prior art of record, the anonymous article, "HP Products Now Available at US Navy's

ITEC Mall," discloses a method comprising: receiving a request for one or more catalog

items from a requestor; formatting the request according to a plurality of catalog

servers; sending the formatted response to a plurality of catalog servers; receiving a

response from each of the plurality of catalog servers in a format conforming to the

catalog interface protocol, the responses normally including results describing at least

one catalog item identified in response to the request; (by implication) parsing the

responses to obtain the results; and sending the results form the plurality of catalog

servers to the requestor (first four paragraphs). The "HP Products article" discloses

sending a search request "to all appropriate supplier databases" (third paragraph),

which can be taken as implying determining a plurality of available catalog servers of

suppliers. Dorobek ("Group Demos Way to Shop Multiple E-Catalogs") is also relevant.

Neither the "HP Products" article nor Dorobek discloses determining a plurality of

catalog servers available to the requestor, wherein said determining comprises

determination by an application server of available catalog servers from proxy settings

of a browser used by the requestor. Mendelson ("Innovative Software GMBh: Java

Booster") teaches the proxy settings of a browser determining which, if any, external

servers the computer running the browser can interact with (second paragraph).

However, neither the "HP Products" article, Dorobek, Mendelson, nor any other prior art

of record discloses or suggests determination by an application server receiving

requests from a requestor's computer of available catalog servers from proxy settings of a browser used by the requestor.

The above has been written with particular reference to claim 1, the method claim, but claims 13 and 24 are essentially parallel, and in particular, contain the same limitation which was found to make claim 1 allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Pugliese et al. (U.S. Patent 2001/0044751) disclose a system and method for displaying and selling goods and services (note in particular paragraphs 267 and 270 for obtaining search results from external catalogs).

The anonymous article, "HP Products Now Available at US Navy's ITEC Mall," discloses a user submitting requests which are sent to appropriate catalog servers.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nicholas D. Rosen, whose telephone number is 571-272-6762. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM, M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey A. Smith, can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number

for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Non-official/draft communications can be faxed to the examiner at 571-273-6762.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the

Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for

published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR.

Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only.

For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should

you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic

Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a

USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information

system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NICHOLAS D. ROSEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

December 17, 2007